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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT **CONFIDENTIAL**

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Albania ☐ USSR

DATE DISTR. 31 March 1952

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SUBJECT Reported Arrest of Various Albanian Government Officials; General Unrest in Albania

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PLACE ACQUIRED

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. In September 1949, a Soviet Commission, headed by a colonel whose name is unknown, arrived in Albania. At a meeting of the Communist Party presidium, this colonel ☐ assured the Albanians of Soviet moral and political aid, but ruled out military aid because the USSR was prevented from doing so by her commitments to the United Nations. As a result of this speech, Abedin Shehu accused the colonel of being a Trotskyite and a traitor. When the meeting reportedly closed, the matter was scheduled to be discussed further at the meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee on 21 February 1950. 50X1-HUM
2. The debate on Abedin Shehu's accusations lasted three days, through 23 February, after which the matter was carried over to the next meeting, on 6 March, at which time Abedin Shehu, the Ministers of Finance and Communications, and the Chief of the Communist Party Executive Committee of Tirana were accused of being traitors, and of having organized Nationalist groups within the army and the civil service. During the course of the meeting, Mehmet Shehu allegedly opened fire with a revolver on the Vice-Minister of Finance, who died on the spot. ☐ persons accused above were also wounded. 50X1-HUM
3. The persons suspected in the above plot have reportedly been arrested. ☐ General Gjin Marka Toma, who was reportedly accused of being in contact with "reactionaries", was also arrested. ☐ arrests are increasing daily among both officers and civilians; as an example, ☐ four houses on Dibra Street, Tirana, have been evacuated and all the inhabitants imprisoned. 50X1-HUM
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4. In view of this crisis, the Communist Party Central Committee is reportedly planning to hold new elections.
5. In Shkoder, 80 officers have reportedly been arrested by the DMP. The population of Shkoder, including both army and civilian officials, is said to be ripe for revolt. Their revolutionary spirit has been greatly increased by reported resistance elsewhere in Albania.

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6. In addition [redacted] propaganda leaflets bearing the seal of the Yugoslav Communist Party have been dropped in northern Albania.

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7. The bread rations for laborers has been reduced from 8 to 6 kilograms, and a request for increased rations for civil servants has reportedly been refused. [redacted] taxes will be 120 per cent higher this year than last.

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* [redacted] Comment: This might possibly be the same person as Major General Gjin Marku, who, as late as 8 July 1949, is known to have held the post of Director of Artillery in the Albanian Ministry of National Defense; and, on 5 January 1950, was reported to have been appointed Chief of Tank Branch, Army Staff of the Albanian Ministry of War [redacted] Attempts are being made to verify this point.

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